

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for the authentication of buyers and sellers and for the transmission of trading instructions in a trading and auction system, comprising the steps of:

Requiring that a prospective buyer or seller register with the trading and auction system before being able to place trading instructions, including requiring that said prospective buyer or seller provide a unique identifier of a SMS messaging-capable wireless device belonging to the prospective buyer or seller;

Assigning a password to said prospective buyer or seller;

Communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller and receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller, wherein at least one of said steps of communicating said password and receiving a confirmation of said password are performed using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability;

Activating said prospective buyer or seller's account or trading instruction if said password is correct;

Assigning a unique identification number to each product or service for sale or auction at said trading and auction system;

Sending short message protocol messages to a buyer's SMS wireless device concerning offers or bids made by that buyer in relation to a product or service, with the unique identification number of the product or service included in an only 'Sender' field of each short message protocol message to the buyer;

Receiving short message protocol messages concerning a buyer's trading instructions on a product or service from that buyer's SMS wireless device, determining the product or service by extracting and recognizing the unique identification number of the product or service from an only 'Recipient' field of received short message protocol messages from the buyer, identifying the buyer by extracting and recognizing the unique identifier of the SMS

wireless device from the only 'Sender' field of each message from the buyer and parsing a text body of each message from the buyer to determine the buyer's trading instructions for that product or service.

2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of requiring that a buyer authenticate their identity with the trading and auction system when placing their first trading instruction in relation to a product or service by an exchange of messages between the trading and auction system, in which at least one of said messages are sent or received using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller is performed over a computer network, and said step of receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller is performed using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller is performed using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability, and said step of receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller is performed over a computer network.

5. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a GSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, wherein said trading and auction system is in direct communication with said SMSC server.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of sending messages to a buyer's wireless device includes the step of concatenating an access identification number with the unique identification number of the product or service and placing said concatenated number in the only 'Sender' field of each message to the buyer,

~~said~~ an SMSC server using the access identification number to identify SMS from wireless devices destined for said trading and auction system and to forward such SMS directly to the trading and auction system.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim1, wherein said trading and auction system is connected to ~~said~~ an SMSC server via a computer network.

8. (currently amended) A method for the authentication of buyers and sellers in a trading and auction system, comprising the steps of:

Requiring that a prospective buyer or seller register with the trading and auction system before being able to place trading instructions, including requiring that said prospective buyer or seller provide a unique identifier of a SMS messaging-capable wireless device belonging to the prospective buyer or seller;

Assigning a password to said prospective buyer or seller;

Communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller by concatenating an access identification number with a numeric address pertaining to and recognized by the system for registration purposes, placing said concatenated number in an only 'Sender' field of a SMS message, and sending the password in the SMS message to said buyer or seller; and

receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller, wherein at least one of said steps of communicating said password and receiving a confirmation of said password are performed using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability; and

Activating said prospective buyer or seller's account or trading instruction if said password is correct.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the step of requiring that a buyer authenticate their identity with the trading and auction system when placing their first trading instruction in relation to a product or service by an exchange of messages between the trading and auction system, in which at least one of said messages are sent or received using said wireless device's messaging capability.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein said step of communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller is performed over a computer network, and said step of receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller is performed using said wireless device's messaging capability.

11. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein said step of communicating said password to said prospective buyer or seller is performed using said wireless device's messaging capability, and said step of receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller is performed over a computer network.

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a GSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, wherein said trading and auction system is in direct communication with said SMSC server.

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 12 wherein ~~said step of sending messages to buyer's wireless device includes the step of concatenating an access identification number with the unique identification number of the product or service and placing said concatenated number in the 'Sender' field of each message;~~ said SMSC server using the access identification number to identify SMS from wireless devices destined for said trading and auction system and to forward such SMS directly to the trading and auction system.

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said trading and auction system is connected to ~~said~~ an SMSC server via a computer network.

15. (currently amended) A method for the transmission of trading instructions in a trading and auction system, comprising the steps of:

Assigning a unique identification number to each product or service for sale or auction at said trading and auction system;

Sending short message protocol messages to a buyer's SMS wireless device concerning offers or bids made by that buyer in relation to a product or service, with the unique identification number of the product or service included in an only 'Sender' field of each short message protocol message to the buyer;

Receiving short message protocol messages concerning a buyer's trading instructions on a product or service from that buyer's SMS wireless device, determining the product or service by extracting and recognizing the unique identification number of the product or service from an only 'Recipient' field of received short message protocol messages from the buyer, identifying the buyer by extracting and recognizing the unique identifier of the SMS wireless device from the only 'Sender' field of each message from the buyer and parsing a text body of each message from the buyer to determine the buyer's trading instructions for that product or service.

16. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising the step of requiring that a buyer authenticate their identity with the trading and auction system when placing their first trading instruction in relation to a product or service by an exchange of messages between the trading and auction system, in which at least one of said messages are sent or received using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability.

17. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of exchanging messages comprises the steps of sending a password to said prospective buyer or seller over a computer network, and receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability.

18. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said step of exchanging messages comprises the steps of sending a password to said prospective buyer or seller using said SMS wireless device's messaging capability, and receiving a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller over a computer network.

19. (original) A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a GSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, wherein said trading and auction system is in direct communication, via a direct link or through the internet, with said SMSC server.

20. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said step of sending messages to a buyer's wireless device includes the step of concatenating an access identification number with the unique identification number of the product or service and placing said concatenated number in the only 'Sender' field of each message to the buyer, ~~said an~~ SMSC server using the access identification number to identify SMS from wireless devices destined for said trading and auction system and to forward such SMS directly to the trading and auction system.

21. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said trading and auction system is connected to ~~said an~~ SMSC server via a computer network.

22. (currently amended) A trading and auction system, comprising:
registration handling means for receiving a unique identifier of a SMS messaging-capable wireless device belonging to a prospective buyer or seller;
message dispatching means for sending short message protocol messages to a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;
message receiving means for receiving short message protocol messages from a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;
said registration handling means arranged to assign a password to said prospective buyer or seller, and to communicate said password to said prospective buyer or seller and receive a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller, wherein said password is communicated to said prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device via said message dispatching means and/or said confirmation of said password is received from said

prospective buyer or seller's wireless device via said message receiving means, said registration handling means arranged to activate said prospective buyer or seller's account or trading instruction if said confirmation of said password is correct;

unique identification number assigning means to automatically allocate a unique identification number to each product or service for sale or auction on said trading and auction system;

database means for storing the unique identification number of each product and service for sale or auction on said trading and auction system and for storing the unique identifier of each buyer or seller's SMS wireless device; and

trade and auction handling means arranged to send short message protocol messages to a buyer's SMS wireless device concerning offers or bids made by that buyer in relation to a product or service via said message dispatching means, with the unique identification number of the product or service included in an only 'Sender' field of each short message protocol message to the buyer;

said trade and auction handling means further arranged to receive short message protocol messages concerning a buyer's trading instructions on a product or service from that buyer's SMS wireless device via said message receiving means, and to determine the product or service by extracting and recognizing the unique identification number of the product or service from an only 'Recipient' field of received short message protocol messages from the buyer, identify the buyer by extracting and recognizing the unique identifier of the SMS wireless device from the only 'Sender' field of each message from the buyer, parse a text body of each message from the buyer to determine the buyer's trading instructions for that product or service and execute said trading instructions.

23. (original) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said trade and auction handling means is arranged to require that a buyer authenticate their identity with the trading and auction system when placing their first trading instruction in relation to a product or service by an exchange of messages with the trading and auction system, wherein one of said messages is communicated to said buyer's wireless device via said message dispatching means and/or another of said messages is received from said buyer's wireless device via said

message receiving means.

24. (original) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 22 or 23, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a FGSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, said message dispatching means and message receiving means being in direct communication with said SMSC server to send and receive SMS therefrom, respectively.

25. (currently amended) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said message dispatching means is arranged to concatenate an access identification number with the unique identification number of the product or service and place said concatenated number in the only 'Sender' field of each message sent to a buyer concerning that product or service, said an SMSC server using the access identification number to identify SMS from the buyer's wireless device destined for said trading and auction system and to forward such SMS directly to the message receiving means.

26. (currently amended) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said message dispatching means and message receiving means are connected to ~~said~~ an SMSC server via a computer network.

27. (currently amended) A trading and auction system, comprising:

- registration handling means for receiving a unique identifier of a SMS messaging-capable wireless device belonging to a prospective buyer or seller;
- message dispatching means for sending short message protocol messages to a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;
- message receiving means for receiving short message protocol messages from a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;
- database means for storing the unique identifier of each buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;

said registration handling means arranged to assign a password to said prospective buyer or seller, and to communicate said password to said prospective buyer or seller and receive a confirmation of said password from said prospective buyer or seller, wherein said password is communicated to said prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device via said message dispatching means by concatenating an access identification number with a numeric address pertaining to the registration handling means, placing said concatenated number in an only 'Sender' field of a SMS message, and sending the password in the SMS message to said buyer or seller, and/or said confirmation of said password is received from said prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device via said message receiving means, said registration handling means arranged to activate said prospective buyer or seller's account or trading instruction if said confirmation of said password is correct.

28. (original) A trading and auction system as claimed claims 27, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a GSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, said message dispatching means and message receiving means being in direct communication with said SMSC server to send and receive SMS therefrom, respectively.

29. (currently amended) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 27 or 28, wherein said message dispatching means and message receiving means are connected to said an SMSC server via a computer network.

30. (currently amended) A trading and auction system, comprising:

message dispatching means for sending short message protocol messages to a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;

message receiving means for receiving short message protocol messages from a prospective buyer or seller's SMS wireless device;

unique identification number assigning means to automatically allocate a unique identification number to each product or service for sale or auction on said trading and auction system;

database means for storing the unique identification number of each product and service for sale or auction on said trading and auction system; and

trade and auction handling means arranged to send short message protocol messages to a buyer's SMS wireless device concerning offers or bids made by that buyer in relation to a product or service via said message dispatching means, with the unique identification number of the product or service included in an only 'Sender' field of each short message protocol message to the buyer;

said trade and auction handling means further arranged to receive short message protocol messages concerning a buyer's trading instructions on a product or service from that buyer's SMS wireless device via said message receiving means, and to determine the product or service by extracting and recognizing the unique identification number of the product or service from an only 'Recipient' field of received short message protocol messages from the buyer, identify the buyer by extracting and recognizing a unique identifier of the SMS wireless device from the only 'Sender' field of each message from the buyer, parse a text body of each message from the buyer to determine the buyer's trading instructions for that product or service and execute said trading instructions.

31. (original) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said trade and auction handling means is arranged to require that a buyer authenticate their identity with the trading and auction system when placing their first trading instruction in relation to a product or service by an exchange of messages with the trading and auction system, wherein one of said messages is communicated to said buyer's wireless device via said message dispatching means and/or another of said messages is received from said buyer's wireless device via said message receiving means.

32. (original) A trading and auction system as claimed claims 30 or 31, wherein said wireless device is a GSM device with SMS capability, said wireless device being serviced by a GSM network including a SMSC server to control and manage SMS to and from said wireless device, said message dispatching means and message receiving means being in direct communication with said SMSC server to send and receive SMS therefrom, respectively.

33. (currently amended) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said message dispatching means is arranged to concatenate an access identification number with the unique identification number of the product or service and place said concatenated number in the only 'Sender' field of each message sent to a buyer concerning that product or service, ~~said~~ an SMSC server using the access identification number to identify SMS from the buyer's wireless device destined for said trading and auction system and to forward such SMS directly to the message receiving means.

34. (currently amended) A trading and auction system as claimed in claim 30, wherein said message dispatching means and message receiving means are connected to ~~said~~ an SMSC server via a computer network.